

219

Wesleyan University.

INAUGURATION OF

REV. CYRUS D. FOSS, D. D.

AS PRESIDENT.

ADDRESSES

AT THE

INAUGURATION

OF

Rev. Cyrus D. Foss, D. D.,

AS PRESIDENT OF

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY,

Tuesday, October 26th, 1875.



MIDDLETOWN, CONN.

PELTON & KING, STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

1876.



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Inauguration.

AT a special meeting of the Trustees of Wesleyan University, held in Middletown, Conn., July 28, 1875, REV. CYRUS D. FOSS, D. D., was elected to the office of President of the University, made vacant by the resignation of President CUMMINGS. He entered upon the duties of his office at the opening of the Fall term, in the September following; but the formal ceremonies of Inauguration were postponed to Tuesday, October 26th.

The number of visitors present on the day of Inauguration was very large. At about two o'clock, the invited guests, including officers of other colleges, members of the learned professions from the city and vicinity, with Alumni, Trustees, and other friends of the University, gathered in the College Library. Thence, at half-past two, they passed in procession to the Memorial Chapel, joined at the Chapel doors by the whole body of undergraduates, who were in waiting there. The body of the house was reserved for the procession; the remainder was filled by citizens and by ladies accompanying invited guests. On the platform were seated the President of the Board of Trustees, the President elect of the University and the retiring President, the speakers representing the Trustees and the Alumni, together with Bishops Janes and Haven of the Methodist Episcopal Church, President Porter of Yale College, and President Hurst of the Drew Theological Seminary. It is worthy of note that, among the audience, immediately in front of the platform, sat the venerable Mrs. Willbur Fisk, widow of the first President of Wesleyan University.

C. C. North, President of the Board of Trustees, presided throughout the afternoon, and the exercises proceeded in accordance with the following programme, closing at about five o'clock.

PROGRAMME.

ANTHEM, - Wake the Song of Jubilee, - COLLEGE CHOIR.

PRAYER, - - - by PRESIDENT PORTER, of Yale College.

HYMN.

Mighty One before whose face
Wisdom had her glorious seat,
When the orbs that people space
Sprang to birth beneath thy feet ;

Source of truth, whose rays alone
Light the mighty world of mind ;
God of love, who from thy throne
Kindly watchest all mankind ;

Shed on those, who in thy Name
Teach the way of truth and right,
Shed that love's undying flame,
Shed that wisdom's guiding light.

Address by the President of the Board of Trustees,

C. C. NORTH, ESQ.

Address, and presentation of the Insignia of Office,
by the retiring President,

REV. JOSEPH CUMMINGS, D. D., LL. D.

Address in behalf of the Trustees,

HON. G. G. REYNOLDS, LL. D.

CHORUS, - Keller's American Hymn, - COLLEGE CHOIR.

Address in behalf of the Faculty,

PROF. WILLIAM NORTH RICE.

Address in behalf of the Students,

GEORGE S. COLEMAN of the Senior Class.

Address in behalf of the Alumni,

REV. B. K. PIERCE, D. D., of the Class of '41.

ANTHEM, - Gloria,—Mozart's Twelfth Mass, - COLLEGE CHOIR.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

REV. CYRUS D. FOSS, D. D.

Doxology,

Benediction.

In the evening a Social Reunion of the Alumni, undergraduates, and other friends of the University, was held in the Memorial Chapel. At seven o'clock, while the Chapel was filling, the whole line of college buildings was brilliantly illuminated, and fireworks were displayed upon the campus. After an hour or more of social intercourse in the Chapel, the assembly were seated, at the request of the toast-master, S. H. Olin, of the Class of '66, who, after some felicitous introductory remarks, gave the following list of toasts :

Wesleyan University. Responded to by President C. D. Foss.

The Faculty. Responded to by Prof. C. S. Harrington.

The Trustees. Responded to by Oliver Hoyt.

The Press. Responded to by Rev. Daniel Curry, D. D., editor of *The Christian Advocate*.

The Church. Responded to by Bishop Gilbert Haven.

The Alumni. Responded to by Rev. Albert S. Hunt, D. D., of the Class of '51.

Other Colleges. Responded to by Prof. H. A. Newton, LL. D., of Yale College.

At ten o'clock the speaking closed, and the company repaired to the lower Chapel, where refreshments were served. At about a quarter of eleven the assembly broke up, and many of the visitors took carriages to the station of the Air Line Railroad, where a special train was in waiting, connecting in New Haven with boat for New York and train for Boston.

ADDRESS BY CHARLES C. NORTH, ESQ.,

President of the Board of Trustees.

To many who compose this promiscuous assembly, this will seem an occasion of but little more than ordinary importance ; but to those who participate in the exercises, to the Faculty, to the elder Alumni, to the ex-President as well as to the President elect, and lastly to the Board of Trustees, this event is of thrilling interest. It is an epoch in the history of our oldest and grandest university. It is the ending of an old dispensation full of self-sacrifice and success, and the beginning of a new, founded on a glorious past, involving new impulses, new plans, enlarged instructions, a large ingathering of students, and last, but not least, liberal endowments. Some of us, for nearly twenty years, have participated in the movements which have crowned this beautiful hill with stately buildings unsurpassed in durability, convenience, and beauty by any other college group in the country. Every square foot of the ground on which we tread seems to us consecrated to the well-being of the church and the world, and every stone in these buildings old or new, smooth or rough, is radiant with noble thoughts and holy purposes. Had this company assembled eighteen years ago, they would have seen yonder plain rough building, the dormitory adjoining, the old chapel in keeping in plainness and roughness. They still hold their places—venerated relics of the past. Off yonder was the old boarding-hall, whilst to complete the cluster was the old workshop where Prof. Johnston so long displayed his industry, and his genius. Since the advent of Dr. Cummings and the election of many of the Board of Trustees, the rest of the buildings have been erected. First, the gymnasium, where muscle receives culture corresponding with that of intellect. Then the homely boarding-hall was transformed by the addition of an observatory, now graced by a telescope of rare perfections and powers. Then came the library, the gift of Isaac Rich, of blessed memory, utilized by the library fund—a colossal evidence of the gratitude of the

Alumni. This Memorial Chapel, a gift from the whole people, inspired by the zeal and devotion of Mrs. Cummings, is a noble memorial to the sons of old Wesleyan, who went forth to battle and shed their blood for the life of the nation. The group of buildings was still incomplete and uncrowned. Orange Judd brought the crown, costly and beautiful. There it stands to-day, the gift of an alumnus who paused in mid-life to render an offering of gratitude to his Alma Mater. During these eighteen years, the property of the university, including endowments, has increased a half million of dollars. Its curriculum has so enlarged that old-graduates who are placed on examining committees regret that they had not been born ten to twenty years later. It has increased its corps of professors, choosing them from its best trained sons. The salaries of its professors have been increased from \$1,000 a year to \$2,500. As a board of trustees it has been our privilege to see diplomas given to young men, who have gone forth to fill positions of trust all over the land, carrying with them culture, refinement, piety, and usefulness. They have entered the profession of the law to neutralize the sentiment that a lawyer must needs be unfaithful, of medicine to prove that a doctor may retain his natural sympathies. They have entered mercantile pursuits to show the fallacy untrue that education is unfavorable to business success. They have entered the ministry to prove that unction from above is not excluded from the heart, because the head is filled with useful knowledge.

In June last, at a meeting of the trustees, Dr. Cummings, whose course has been so illustrious, offered his resignation, assigning reasons that, whilst satisfactory to the board, were honorable to himself, and indicative of devotion to the university. We looked around for a successor. With a unanimous voice we chose the pastor of St. James, New York, Rev. Dr. C. D. Foss, whose inauguration we are assembled to celebrate.

ADDRESS BY REV. JOSEPH CUMMINGS, D. D., LL. D.,

The Retiring President.

To me has been assigned the simple duty of transferring to you the symbols of the responsible office to which you have been called—the charter, the seal, and the keys of Wesleyan University. Having earnestly and repeatedly requested to be relieved from the office, and my request having been granted, it is not perhaps unfitting that these symbols should pass directly from me to you.

I comply with the request of the committee to add a few words to the simple duty assigned me. In thus doing I congratulate you on the favorable circumstances under which you assume your office—called to it with the hearty concurrence of the Trustees, the Faculty, the Alumni and other friends of the institution dear to us both as our Alma Mater.

From none have you received a heartier welcome than from him who now addresses you. May this favorable beginning but faintly indicate the success and prosperity of your administration. I congratulate you on the position and rank of the college. The days of early struggle for existence, of doubt and darkness have passed. Its success is sure. It has indeed its embarrassments not connected with its existence as a college, but growing out of the enlargement of its facilities for instruction and the extension of its influence, in accordance with what has been deemed the demands of the age. The spirit of enterprise that has demanded this large increase of expenditure will, we trust, furnish the means to meet it. The same enterprising spirit characterized the founders of this institution. In their feebleness, with little money and little power, they had strong faith that looked to the future. They contemplated not what the institution was, in their hands, but what it should be. The charter and the name confer power and imply resources not as yet realized. You enter on a work sanctified by the names, prayers, labors and sacrifices of Fisk, Olin, Bangs and Smith, the honored dead, ever to be cherished and held in remembrance dear. My prayer is that a double portion

of the spirit of the first president, the sainted Fisk, may rest on you ; then will all the power and privileges of the institution be put in exercise. No jealousy will be entertained relative to new measures and changes in modes of administration. A strong man in the fulness of his powers is called to a responsible place that by his skill, wisdom and strength, new resources may be developed. None will rejoice in your success more heartily than those who struggled with the difficulties of the past.

A new administration can readily introduce changes, which the former one, though desiring, could not, on account of its embarrassments, without difficulty and loss, effect. I congratulate you on the character of your associates. I need not tell you of the power, the attainments, the unusual labors and the worth of your associates in the board of instruction whom another will represent. Personal feelings of gratitude lead me to congratulate you on the character of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. I can assure you they will not embarrass, but will aid you in new plans and labors. No captiousness, divided counsels, or personal difficulties will hinder the success of your great work. They will expect reasons indicating the wisdom of your measures, but when this shall be apparent they will give you cordial support. I recall with gratitude their kindness and patient and careful consideration of what has been hitherto proposed, and I have special satisfaction in the fact that no measure of mine that was earnestly urged, was ever, in all the difficulties of the past, rejected.

I congratulate you that in prospect, at least, you will be free from much drudgery and labor distasteful to one of literary taste, hitherto connected with your office. Only that sense of duty that leads the true man to do what the office and hour demand, could ever reconcile such an one to it. The sacrifice made is never appreciated, oft lightly treated. I recall with sorrow the years given to such labor, and the sacrifice of ambitious plans, and hopes that looked to honorable attainments and some degree of permanent influence. May yours be a field of congenial labor. You assume your office with less responsibility relative to government than either of your predecessors. By a recent change in the rules of the college your associates have a responsibility in government not before assigned them. I trust you will find in their hearty and faithful cooperation the wisdom of this change. There is another reason for the changes, in the fact that the government of a college to-day is very different from what it was fifty years ago. There have been developed in students a maturity of

power and a sense of personal responsibility that have led them to demand and receive exemption from requirements and duties formerly deemed necessary.

Yet is there still a most important power in college government, and the phrase "*In loco parentis*," however ridiculed, yet has significance. You will be called to control those whose hot blood, undisciplined energy and reckless zeal will oft lead them astray. Firmness, coolness, wisdom and kindness will be needed. There is a generous nature in impetuous youth that will yield to the just exercise of power that shall not seem arbitrary, and to patient forbearance and kindness. Oft the reckless boast of independence is made, with lips pale and trembling, showing how vain the effort to conceal true feeling that in private causes tears of shame and sorrow. In all cases of discipline there are other hearts than the offender's that ache, and in innocence may suffer keenest anguish. Few occasions of sorrow and disappointment are greater than that of parents, grieving over the fall and shame and dishonor of a child who has been the object of their dearest hopes. Happy is that administrator of government, who can feel assurance that never needlessly has he caused such sorrow. Oft remonstrance in private, much as it may expose one to abuse and misrepresentation from the ungrateful, will save a noble soul. Much tenderness and wisdom are required to exhibit that only true consistency in government which is not measured by mere outward rules, but by character and circumstances and measures that shall gain the only true object of discipline.

There will come also other scenes in which few will know the responsibility of your office. The common lot and the great destroyer, as you know in your own sorrow and bereavement, spare not the gifted, noble seekers of truth. There will come times, though we pray heaven to avert them, when the strong, the gifted, it may be the manliest of yon throng, or of those who shall tread in succeeding years these well-worn aisles, shall lie on the bed of suffering and of death. When in the absence of the dear ones at home, weary eyes will look longingly to you and ask when will the loved ones come, then in the long, sad night will it be your duty to watch and whisper words of consolation and tell of Jesus' love. Then, when that scene has past, you will be called to meet those whom swiftest speed brought too late to receive from a dying child words of affection and the kiss of love. Even now solemn scenes rise before me; but, thank God, whatever others may say, these forms, whether bowed in sorrow or with faces pallid in death, through the darkening shadows of the past, express no reproach.

This has been hitherto preeminently a religious college. This fact, together with its name, has led to mistakes as to its character, that some of its friends have regarded with impatience. Yet better this mistake than the opposite. Whatever may happen as to the name, which in itself is no more significant than any other name of a benefactor connected with a college, I trust and earnestly pray, that here, sound learning and true piety may be forever united. Let no pride of science put away humble trust in Christ and a confiding belief in that good old doctrine of prayer and prevailing faith, in which good and noble men and women of other times trusted and triumphantly died. Surely in an institution founded as was this, it is not too much to expect that students shall be trained to a practical religious life, and that while the intellect shall be developed and made wise, the affections shall be trained to duty, and all the faculties of the soul consecrated to the truth, knowing that God and truth are one. Here may true wisdom be found, the beginning of which is the fear of the Lord, and from this College, in long succession, may there go forth true scholars, whose mission shall be to bless men and honor God.

I commit to you the charter of Wesleyan University, the original and amended, which have long been in my keeping. It is connected with precious memories and high hopes; may all the privileges and powers it confers be realized under your administration. I commit to you this seal; it has been used with carefulness and discrimination in its impressions on certificates of regular and special degrees. Under your direction may no impression be made that shall lower the standard assumed or cause you regret. I commit to you the keys of the College. They have been in practical use and will open many doors. May they be symbols of your power to open the hearts of the wealthy, the powerful, the generous, and to secure resources that shall greatly increase the influence and power of the university.

I heartily wish you success, and that a long and useful life may be given you, ere you depart for Heaven. And may God now and hereafter bless Wesleyan University.

ADDRESS BY HON. GEORGE G. REYNOLDS, LL. D.,

In Behalf of the Trustees.

MR. PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY: It seems eminently appropriate that the trustees should come and greet you on this the occasion of your formal introduction into the office to which you have been elected by them. It needs no word of mine to tell you how cordial is their welcome. The fact that you have been unanimously chosen, signifies more than I can express,—chosen too, to take the place of such a predecessor, of such a line of predecessors, and to stand at the head of such a faculty. This was no hasty or inconsiderate action upon the part of our Board; it was taken under an adequate sense as we think, of our responsibility in this important period of our history as a college, taken after a careful canvass of many distinguished names and a free, full and confidential discussion by a large committee appointed for that purpose. I may say too, I think without impropriety, that we have acted with the advantage of the counsel and concurrence of our late President, and of that other eminent member of our board, who from his wisdom and experience was so well qualified to judge, who, in all the wide range of choice, was the most fitting for us, and what seemed the providential field of duty and of opportunity for us.

As friends of the University we look back with great satisfaction upon the forty-four years of its history. It has graduated nearly eleven hundred students; not a very large number, but when we consider the positions they occupy, the work they are doing, the influences they command, we shall see that this comparatively small number of men are a great and certainly accumulating power,—indeed it is not extravagant to say they constitute an important factor in the forces of this continent to-day. And the education which has been the impulse and the preparation for their various careers of usefulness is in a great degree fairly attributable to this institution. This work has been accomplished while the University has been hampered by the

limits of poverty. The results, however, have been restricted rather in quantity than in quality. What has been done has been well done. I have had considerable opportunity of comparing the attainments of our Alumni with those of the more numerous graduates of other like institutions, and of those, too, which are generally considered foremost in the country, and I claim for this college that in point of scholarship, and all manly qualities of character, its graduates are not below any others that can be found, and I mean in this to cover the whole period from its beginning until now. Small as are our pecuniary resources, here we have a living and growing endowment such as no wealth can bestow; which no act or gift of legislative power can create. Most of those who have been graduated here have followed such pursuits that they have not been conspicuous for their accumulation of fortunes, but I undertake to say that for loyalty to their Alma Mater and sacrifices in its behalf they yield the palm to none. But I must proceed no farther in this direction, lest I trespass upon the ground which belongs to my friend and classmate who is to follow me. Indeed I am in danger of exceeding the limit intimated to me by the Committee of Arrangements.

It would be a poor welcome which we offer you, Dr. Foss, if in calling you to this post, we did not stand pledged to give to you our cordial support. We share with you that love for Wesleyan University which is doubtless one of your motives, as it is one of your qualifications, for the responsible office which you have assumed. We feel that by the work which it has done the University has made full proof of its claims upon the church especially for an ample, nay, a munificent equipment, that it shall fall no step behind any true progress in education. We expect that under your administration it will enhance those claims. We have no misgivings as to the grounds of our confidence. Already we have from various quarters assurances of the wisdom of our choice. To you and to this faculty we commit these material and educational interests, certain that within your sphere you will faithfully and successfully administer the trust. To you, my dear brother, and to these your colleagues, do we confide these spiritual interests, with the full confidence that they will be held sacred in your hands. And in the name of the Trustees and patrons of Wesleyan University, and in token of our earnest support and cooperation, I give you the right hand of welcome.

ADDRESS BY WILLIAM NORTH RICE, PH. D.,

In Behalf of the Faculty.

The duty which has been devolved upon me I have undertaken with unfeigned reluctance. For to me, as to all but one of my colleagues, it seemed that our only fitting representative was that one—preeminent in scholarly character and in services to the College, and honored in being the personal friend of you, whom, with all the cordiality of intimate friendship, we would welcome. I have undertaken this duty with reluctance; yet I should be false to my own feelings did I not avow the profound satisfaction which I feel in its performance. For there is a joy in utterance when out of the abundance of the heart the mouth may speak.

When we learned, last summer, that our wise and venerable Board of Trustees had reached a decision in your unanimous election, we hastened to assure you of our heartfelt satisfaction, to tender to you our most cordial welcome, and to pledge you our earnest support. That assurance and that pledge we renew to-day, but not now as then. To most of us you were then scarcely known save by reputation. That reputation gave us confidence, but it could not give such confidence as comes from personal acquaintance in the actual duties of your position. We had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now our eyes have seen you. We have seen you taking up the details of administration, novel to you, and intricate and vexatious in themselves, with an ease and naturalness which have seemed like intuition. We have seen in you the strength of will and the self-reliance which fit a man to govern, joined with that respect for the opinions of others which enables a man to govern wisely. We have talked with you of plans for the future development of the college; and have felt that your heart was with ours in the high aspirations we have cherished—aspirations for a time when our loved Institution, more largely endowed, should enter more fully upon the higher phase of the work of a University,—when it should be not merely a channel for the diffusion of knowledge, but a living spring whence knowledge

should flow,—when its instructors, relieved in some measure from routine drudgery, should be not middle-men but producers in the economy of thought. We have felt the inspiration of your fervent piety, and have learned to recognize in your presence a religious power in the college.

We pledge you our hearty support, the manly support of independent men. We recognize in you not merely a member of the Faculty, *primus inter pares*. Nor, on the other hand, do we regard you as, in military phrase and spirit, our commanding officer. Your position is in part coordinate with ours; yet we recognize you also as the representative to us of that body to which we are subordinate. Claiming no exemption from liability to error, it shall yet be our endeavor to discharge rightly the respective duties growing out of each phase of the relation which subsists between us. As a fellow in the Faculty we trust that you will find in us independence of opinion, candor in discussion, ability to assent without servility, and to dissent without acrimony. As the representative, the personal embodiment of the authority of the college, we trust that you will find in us the deferential loyalty of self-respecting men.

“Reign fortunately as Augustus, virtuously as Trajan.” Thus the Roman Emperor, as he assumed the purple, was exhorted to emulate all that was great and good in the achievements and character of his predecessors. So are you to-day reminded that the position you are called to fill is one made honorable by those who have gone before you. Of the living I need not speak. The last Napoleon covered the public buildings of Paris with the carved initial of his name. No sculptured letter is needed to make the buildings of our University the enduring monument of your immediate predecessor. There comes to your mind the memory of the critical scholarship, the gentlemanly bearing, the spotless character, which have endeared to so many the name of Smith; and, transfigured through the gathering mists of time, are seen the towering form so fitly enshrining the transcendent genius of Olin; the face of gentleness and beauty, like that of the beloved disciple, through whose eyes looked out the saintly soul of Fisk.

Higher honor you could not covet than to be numbered in that noble list; more cordial welcome we cannot give than to hail you as their worthy successor; better wish or prayer we need not offer than that the light which streams from each period of the history of the college may blend together to make the period upon which now we enter brightest of them all.

ADDRESS BY GEORGE S. COLEMAN,

Of the Senior Class, in Behalf of the Students.

MOST HONORED SIR :—It is my happy lot, in behalf of the undergraduates of Wesleyan, to bid you a hearty welcome, and to assure you that in returning once again to your old college home, this time to assume the onerous duties of our highest office, you have our warmest sympathy and good-will. We do not feel as though we were greeting some distinguished stranger, known to us only through the pulpit and the press, but rather as though we were welcoming an elder brother, a loyal son of our Alma Mater. You have come back to renew the scenes of your youth. We have already made your acquaintance. The same ripe scholarship, manly piety, and Christian eloquence, which have won you a name in the world, have taken a deep hold upon us here. We believe that the present is a crisis in the history of our institution. We also believe that the choice of our Trustees has indicated their wisdom; that with your coming we receive new life and vigor; and that the crisis we have feared will be passed in safety. This is why with words and songs of rejoicing we hail your advent to-day.

There is but one circumstance to mar the happiness of the occasion. In assembling this afternoon to witness a transfer of authority we have come to see him who, for nearly twenty years, has ruled us faithfully and well, step down from the seat of power and deliver his sceptre to another. The memory of the past rushes upon us like a flood. Would it were in our power to embody in fitting words the sentiment we feel. Language is too feeble. If we would explain our deepest convictions we must find some better medium than words. But we can pay at least some humble tribute of esteem. Others may praise our departing President for his executive ability, and for his extraordinary powers as an instructor, and for his acknowledged eloquence. In this we all most heartily concur. Such eminent qualifications command our admiration and respect. But it

is the silent influence of his daily life which has most endeared him to us, and which calls for a tribute from our love. If there is one invaluable lesson we have all learned by heart through intercourse with our late President, it is that life is real and earnest. If we have ever received encouragement in our intellectual warfare here, we owe it in a great measure to the living example of our leader. And this we would acknowledge publicly to-day. The practical precepts we have heard from his lips and the practical lessons we have read in his life, shall abide with us ever. Among the fondest memories of our college home shall be the memory of him whose words and deeds have had such a powerful influence in shaping our ideal of perfect manhood.

But turning once more to the present, we have nothing but congratulations to offer. We congratulate ourselves and the college, on the glorious prospect that dawns upon us to-day. There has never, we believe, been a time when the future of Wesleyan looked brighter than to-day. An Institution planted by the piety and nurtured by the prayers of the church; strengthened and supported by the generous endowments of its patrons; guarded by the watchful care of its Faculty and Trustees; and backed by a host of enthusiastic Alumni,—such is its condition. And when we add to this, that the undergraduates are more than ever alive to the interests of old Wesleyan, it seems as though increasing prosperity must attend us at every step. The omens are all propitious. The artificial barriers which once separated teachers and taught are fast disappearing. The true relations existing between faculty and student are coming into clear prominence. We are beginning to realize that in union there is strength. We are beginning to realize, moreover, that the reputation of a college, or of any institution, is largely dependent upon the character of its members, and if the present hour shall only impress us more strongly with our individual responsibility as students, we shall feel that one important end of this occasion has been successfully achieved.

There is no need of multiplying words; that we are perfectly sincere let our actions testify. We are proud of our college to-day. We are proud of our prospects, and proud of our present. May we show ourselves worthy of the honors and privileges we enjoy. And again, honored President, we extend you a cordial greeting. Whatever you may undertake for the welfare of Wesleyan, we pledge you the hearty co-operation and enthusiastic support of the students.

ADDRESS BY REV. BRADFORD K. PEIRCE, D. D.,

In Behalf of the Alumni.

HONORED BROTHER :—I owe this conspicuous position, which would not otherwise have fallen to my hesitating lips to-day, doubtless, to the fact that I was honored by the Alumni of the college, in their first meeting after the acceptance of the new charter, with an election to be their representative in the Board of Trustees. If, however, a warm and sincere expression of fraternal welcome, and an earnest God-speed you, may be considered an adequate compensation for any lack in my brief address of intellectual ability or academic culture, I shall not fall entirely below the expectations and proprieties of the hour.

It was my misfortune, rather than my fault, that I preceded you in my college course; but the friendly acquaintance which I was so fortunate as to form with you while a student here, has ripened from that day to the present. I know that I honor myself when I say this; but, as it has grown more intimate in later years, it has been to me a source of peculiar gratification and profit. I have known, as, perhaps, no one better, how eagerly the pulpits of our churches have welcomed your ministry, and I also know how reluctant they are to yield you to another field of Christian service. I have appreciated your hearty and growing love for the pastoral work. I know how all the roots of your life have stretched down into it, and no earthly position has seemed so much to be coveted as the preacher's opportunity to fulfill the divine mission committed to his hands. Your familiar friends have seen how painful has been the struggle in your mind, and at what a sacrifice of personal comfort and of established plans and purposes you have contemplated the interruption of your pastoral work. They know how carefully you have considered the great question of your duty, and that only when fully convinced of the providential character of this unsolicited and undesired call, you

finally yielded your reluctant consent to obey it. We have well understood that this hesitation to obey the earnest summons of your *Alma Mater* has arisen from no lack of appreciation of the grand opportunities which this chair offers to you, in the discharge of your office as a minister of the gospel. You do not, as you well know, in the least degree infringe upon the vows taken at your ordination as a minister of the gospel. With all your important duties, the chief work that still falls to your hand is pastoral. You will have here, indeed, an audience limited in number, but one over which you may exercise the most powerful and effectual influence ; and the ultimate results of your ministry here will be far wider in their scope than in any other fields to which your church could call you. You could not ask more significant expressions of a divine providence in your present position than you have been permitted to see. Immediately upon the presidential chair becoming vacant, by the resignation of your honored predecessor, your name alone arose to every lip among the friends of the University. The unanimity of the Board of Trustees was a significant symbol of the heartiness with which our whole brotherhood of graduates responded to the election. The press of the country, of our own and other denominations, heartily approved the choice, and foretold a successful administration. The Medean King, who wore your baptismal name was not more definitely indicated for his service in behalf of God's ancient people, than were you by unmistakable providential signs. It had been an unsolved problem in my mind, ever since the General Conference of 1872 until the present time, how you managed to escape the Episcopacy. Before that memorable assembly gathered, and during its early services, we looked upon the event of your elevation to that responsible seat as one of the certain things to come from the ready suffrages of your brethren, while many other matters were in doubt. Looking only on the human side of affairs, we can hardly tell, even now, how it happened that you were saved from such a fate, but this late event has given us the Divine and satisfying solution of the mystery :—

“ His purposes will ripen fast,
 Unfolding every hour,
*The bud may have a bitter taste,
 But sweet will be the flower !”*

It is a matter of pride to us that our University, the first of its class established by our church, having reached a condition where she commands the services of the best scholars of the land, is enabled to fill her chairs of instruction and government, even her highest, from

the names of her own honored children—not because she feels under obligation to provide for *them*, but because they are the “fittest” for the place. She has given educators and governors to scores of academic institutions in the land, but she retains, proud mother as she is, the rarest of her jewels with which to adorn herself.

I heartily congratulate you, honored brother, in coming to your office at this era in the history of the University. The age of stone, we trust, is past; the age of gold, we hope, has come. Entering college in its first decade, I have a very lively remembrance, both of the noble men who have been your predecessors, and of the heavy burdens that bore them down to the earth and constantly limited their success. That model man, in his noble and beautiful presence, in the harmonious development of his intellect, in the sweetness and consecration of his spirit, in the power of his ministry, and in his personal influence over others—the first President of the University—fell in his ripe maturity, during my Sophomore year. His pathetic cough, which was never long absent from our hearing, still lingers in the memory. When Goethe, in his manly years, saw in Rome Thorwaldsen’s grand statutes of Christ and his Apostles, he expressed his sorrow that he could not have looked upon them at an earlier day; he would have been a better man, he was sure, if he had. If a marble form could thus impress and mould a human spirit, it is no wonder that such a presence and such a character as that of Willbur Fisk should have left an indelible impression upon the hearts and lives of susceptible youths; and they did! He sank under the financial burden that rested upon the college, and we laid his body away with many tears, upon the adjoining hill. His greatly beloved and honored relict, who, to my surprise and pleasure, I see among the interested spectators on this remarkable occasion, spared to witness the glorious harvest for which her sainted husband sowed in tears, brings back to my remembrance the perils and anxieties of those early days. Late may she return to the skies! The second President, a leader in our spiritual Israel, venerable both for years and for devoted services long rendered in the church, yielded to the weight of anxiety in two or three years, and retired for a short repose before he came to his honored grave. Then came that gigantic man of mighty frame and massive intellect, the pride of the college and the peerless preacher of the church. The labor incident to the effort for an endowment was too severe for a body enfeebled by years of disease. It was the speaker’s solemn privilege to stand by that memorable bedside in the sublime hour when that great but humble and revered

spirit passed through the veil into the glories of the upper sanctuary. The cultivated and beloved mathematical professor of the University, Dr. Augustus W. Smith, a man of rare excellencies of character, struggled under the debt that crippled every department of the college, until his health and courage broke down, just as the light of a better morning began to dawn.

It is not necessary to speak of your predecessor, who consecrated to the establishment and endowment of his Alma Mater, the strength of his manhood and the most unselfish and untiring devotion. He has written the record of his labor and of his success, where God has inscribed the history of the world's creation, in the solid piles of old red sandstone that adorn our campus. We well remember that burst of high enthusiasm when, in Rich Hall, on that memorable Commencement occasion, amid the cheers of the students, the devout responses of the visitors, the waving of handkerchiefs by the ladies, Dr. Cummings announced that, by the generous gift of two noble patrons the clouds that had long hung over Wesleyan University had broken away. What hours of perplexity and exhausting endeavor preceded this day break, could be appreciated only by those who became familiar by personal sympathy and aid, with the unremitted toil of nearly a score of years.

"All these having obtained a good report, through faith, received not the promise ; God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." To you, honored brother, it is permitted to enter upon the results of all these noble labors. The day of experiment and of trial is over. The hour of large opportunities and of generous provisions has come. When a man's property reaches a million, the smaller additions that may be required for his enjoyment or improvement are much more readily secured ! The generous assurances that you have received from noble men in your Board of Trustees, who are accustomed to exceed in performance their broadest promises, is ample ground for confidence that the future growth of the college is secure.

And now I proffer to you in the name of a noble brotherhood, nearly one thousand strong, what you will need, I fear, and what is too often forgotten ; and that is our hearty sympathy. Just in proportion as we rise out of the circle of our fellow men and reach higher social positions we are exposed to the loss of this. The higher one ascends a mountain, the thinner becomes the verdure. We have only to climb high enough, and no green thing remains. A little higher, and we reach perpetual snow. "You think I am to be

envied," said the last New England President, as he walked the parlors of the White House with his former pastor. "I have not thought so," said the serious minister. "And you are right," was the somewhat weary response. We need sympathy. And men taken from warm human circles and thrust into places of responsibility feel keenly often the want of this. I trust I speak for my brethren and yours, of this noble body of cultivated men, when I assure you that you shall not be neglected in this respect. You shall have our warmest sympathies and our heartiest prayers. May God bless you!

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY REV. CYRUS D. FOSS, D. D.

The committee appointed to arrange for these exercises provided the various and ample feast in which, up to this stage, we have all rejoiced, with my full consent and cordial approbation. In favoring these arrangements I was, of course, aware that the time remaining for me to occupy would not suffice for the elaborate treatment of the numerous topics comprehended in the general theme of university, or even of collegiate, education. I must content myself, and I trust I shall not surfeit my audience, with such suggestions on this great subject as reasonable brevity will permit. The unity of thought essential to such brevity can, perhaps, be best attained by considering collegiate education in a single, but most momentous, aspect. I propose, therefore, to speak of it as foundation work.

The immense importance of such work is recognized the world over. Slow, deliberate, long-continued, and apparently needless preparation for distant duties and uncertain perils forms a large part of all educational processes. Facts all around us are constantly proclaiming this lesson—that we ought to act in view of the far-off and indefinite future as though it were now present and definite. We must gird ourselves now for its unknown emergencies. It will be too late to lay the keel of the ark when the billows of the deluge are roaring around us. Nature teems with illustrations of this truth. The tall, tapering mast, on whose toughness the lives of hundreds may depend, had its fibers well compacted in its century-long struggle with Norwegian gales. Every moment of the immeasurable ages of geologic time was busily occupied in the preparation of this globe for the residence of its noblest and last inhabitant.

The human body is sometimes put under the severest training for months or years to fit it for the supreme exertion of a single hour.

The soldier endures the hard drill and discipline of the camp to prepare not so much his mind as his nerves and muscles for the single sublime hour on which the fate of two nations may hinge.

Intellectual training proceeds on the same principles. Cases are constantly occurring in which only the well-developed and well-furnished mind, and the ready and decisive will can prevent disgraceful and ruinous failure. Decisions must be made on the instant which shall embody the accumulated wisdom of a life-time, and shall determine great interests forever. An advocate may utter an argument in a single hour, for which only the careful study and the wide practice of twenty years could have prepared him, and on which the tenure of vast estates, or the lives of men may depend. The surgeon's eyes must be at his fingers' ends, and every slightest movement of his scalpel must be unconsciously guided by the whole treasured lore of the healing art, from Galen down. A great painter, accused of charging an exorbitant price for the labor of a few days, justly answered, "You have there the labor of thirty-five years."

Moral and religious culture has kindred but transcendent issues. It is a gradual process, painful often, in its slowness, of laying foundations for superstructures which will endure forever. The songs of the nursery, the prayers of the domestic altar, the seemingly unheeded lessons of the Sunday-school, and a thousand other influences for good, all help to mould character, to shape influence, and to determine destiny; all help to prepare for some supreme crisis when virtue shall burst forth resplendent—or, by their guilty misuse, for the dread hour when moral weakness shall basely yield, and cover itself with lasting shame. Taking a broad view of our whole existence, it is not too much to say that our entire life on earth is thus basal and preparative. It is foundation work, root work, a getting ready rather than an achievement.

Especially is it true that all educational processes are of this sort; and according to their success in this particular must they be judged. I think this general truth applies most emphatically to the collegiate course, for the reason that this course ordinarily covers that most eventful crisis in which the almost passive receptivity of youth gives place to the conscious reflection and the profounder intellectual awakening of early manhood; and is included in that momentous decade, from the age of sixteen to twenty-six, in which character, both intellectual and moral, usually receives its lasting stamp.

It is imperatively demanded, and never so strenuously as in our own time, that culture be basal. It must go to the bottom of a

man's nature, and make him more a man. Mere surface adornment avails less and less. It may suffice, as I heard Dr. Olin say with ponderous and contemptuous emphasis, it may suffice for the "no very difficult achievement in the strife of intellect" that a father's partiality and a mother's love are wont to prescribe for a darling son. In the large majority of cases, almost any degree of indolence and ignorance is found compatible with a transcendent home reputation; and the dunce of the college is installed by acclamation the oracle of the fireside." But if rustic ignorance and heedless parental pride leave the dunce in undisputed possession of that petty throne, he can no longer be the oracle of the smallest hamlet. His culture must have made him a man, or he cannot stand among men.

The culture demanded in any course of liberal education cannot be intelligently determined without a careful consideration of two questions, namely: What the being is by whom, for whom, and in whom, this culture is attempted, and what he is to be and to do. In other words, what is man? and what is the true philosophy of human life? I can present at this time only partial outlines of thought in answer to these great questions.

The least important part of the answer to the first of these questions—a fact, however, which we can ill afford to forget—is that man is an animal. As such he is born, grows, eats, drinks, sleeps, dies, and returns to dust. Yet he differs from all other animals, and seems not to be of them while like them. They have a natural awe of him, and he an undisputed lordship over them; but it is not perfectly easy to tell in what particulars he differs from them. Does he, even in his rudest state, use instruments in preparing food and in waging war? monkeys also hurl down cocoa-nuts on the heads of their pursuers. Does he build houses? So do beavers and birds and bees and fishes. Is he cosmopolitan? The horse and the dog can go with him to the equator and to the poles. Examine the structure of his muscles, nerve, bone, heart, and brain. Comparative Anatomy, after all its amazing achievements, can tell you nothing more about him than Shakspeare told you long ago, that he is "the paragon of animals." As such he needs physical culture. "*Mens sana*" is above all price; but its value is sadly deteriorated if it be not "*in corpore sano*." Few men duly estimate the mental and moral value of sound health and buoyant physical strength until they lose them. Tell me not of the few exceptional cases, like that of Baxter, in which a prodigious amount of excellent work is accomplished by a life-long invalid. Such cases only show that a mighty pressure of steam may

do wonders with a crazy engine, one time in a thousand. In all other cases the result is speedy wreck.

The scholar especially needs brawn as well as brain ; because, in order to be a scholar, he must pay the inevitable tax levied on every perpetual hard student ; and also because the supreme practicable mental exertion, which is the business of his life, is directly contingent on the fineness and fullness of his physical forces. Let the student, then, give earnest heed to the care and culture of his body. It is the home, the instrument, the mold, and the eternal companion, of his soul. Let him know that sipping gruel, and languidly lounging over books until his midnight lamp burns low, can never make him either a scholar or a man. Let him eat beef and mutton in generous slices. Let him leap into every day, as into a new Paradise, over the wall of eight hours' solid sleep. Let him not cross his arms behind him, drop his head, and mope along the pavement, inwardly saying, "I am walking for exercise." Let him stretch away over the breezy hills, with fit companions, in utter forgetfulness of lessons and essays and sermons, until every drop of blood in his veins tingles with the delight of mere animal existence. Let him hurl the ball, or pitch the quoit, or tug at the oar, or poise the rifle. I would I might see our gymnasium thronged every day at suitable hours with earnest devotees to physical culture. Only let all these things be done with the distinct recognition that we have a higher nature, and in such manner and measure as to do no harm to what is best and noblest in this loftier realm.

Of this higher nature the physical powers are only the scaffolding. To the brute this world furnishes simply bed and board, and a field for the operation of its physical instincts and the gratification of its senses and appetites. But to man this earth is something more than a dormitory and a larder and a gymnasium. It is a school-house and a workshop and a gallery of art. It is a mighty lesson-book for his perpetual study. Its surface yields spontaneously just enough to be a hint of the far richer treasures hid in its bosom. It spreads out a multitude of unsolved problems before the eager eye. Nature's voice to man is "work, work unceasingly, with hand and brain! work, work, if you would win." Among the adaptations which prove the existence of a designing mind, such as light for the eye, and the eye for light, sound for the ear, and the ear for sound, I know of none which can at all compare with the magnificent adaptation of the universe to the soul of man. It lures him forth, while he is yet in his infancy, into the feeble beginnings of a student-life never to end.

The babe in the cradle, gyrating its arms and turning its eyes towards the light, is as really heeding nature's call to be a learner as Herschel, "with armed eye," sounding the star depths. So prodigal is nature in her revelations to those who intently listen for her every utterance, that none can tell how far the mind of man shall go in no distant age towards extorting her final secret, and peering over her outermost wall.

One of the great problems which has been long and earnestly pondered by many of the ablest minds in the world is how best to secure that culture on which the progress of science and civilization depends. The courses of study prescribed in the college and the University are the answer to this grave question. However these courses may vary in different institutions for higher education, they unite in this most emphatic testimony, that the great need is culture—the training of the mind to be all it can be, rather than to know all it can know. "*Esse quam videri*," is a lesson taught us from our childhood. *Esse quam habere*, is a lesson only less important, and demanding more courage in the teacher and greater faith in the learner. Woe to that youth who while yet a Freshman scans every lesson with a wry face, muttering, *Cui bono*? The good thing for him is not to seem, nor to get, but to become. What he most wants from the college course is not great piles of well-hewn intellectual lumber, but the power to find such lumber, and hew it for himself. No man calls the gymnasium a failure because he cannot carry away all the Indian clubs and dumb-bells. He does not go there for clubs and dumb-bells, but for muscle, and nerve, and better circulation, and greater power.

The standing accusation against the ordinary collegiate course is that it is unpractical. I almost feel it an insult to your intelligence to dwell, for a moment even, on this hackneyed and often-exploded indictment in such a presence. The guardians of this University have unconsciously quashed this indictment beforehand by every step they have taken in the prosecution of their beneficent plans. Why was this location chosen, on the crown of this fair eminence, overlooking the lovely valley of the Connecticut? Why was this campus adorned with trees whose many-hued autumnal glories have ravished the eye through all this golden month, instead of being utilized as an apple orchard? Why are these costly edifices devoted to classical and mathematical and scientific and philosophical study, and this central one to worship, instead of being used for the very practical business of making shoes or spinning cotton? Because

there is something better for man than a mere hand-to-mouth existence. Because he has a brain as well as a stomach, a soul as well as a purse. The dullest pupil of the Author of nature ought to be able to read this lesson everywhere. Why are there more leaves than fruits? What is the use of flowers? Why is the whole creation fitted up with ten times as many arrangements for beauty as for any minor utility? One big, flat continent would have fed the whole human race. Ah, "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God;" and so, to meet these higher appetencies of our complex nature God spoke unto being cloud-piercing mountains and sequestered vales, and wrought into the whole framework of the creation a divinely perfect system of laws and forces, through which he reveals himself, and by the study of which the mind of man obtains its food and rises toward its proper dignity. It cannot be too much insisted on that the great question for every man is not what he gets, but what he becomes. "We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" except ourselves. Surely in that crucial hour when a man leaves the world his chief concern is not what he leaves, but what he is; and therefore, at every hour before that, what he is is the true test of the value of the culture he has attained.

While thus the real worth of a thorough educational course can be justly estimated only in view of these highest considerations, it is well to remember that in every lower region of human endeavor its superior value is abundantly demonstrated. "All but ten of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were trained in universities and colleges. More than one fourth of the members of the National Congress from the beginning to this day have been graduates of colleges. This fact, taking the ratio of population and graduates, shows that the colleges have given their graduates more than thirty chances to one." Were Cicero and Pitt and Sumner less effective in their oratory because of the affluence of their culture? We are often pointed to the marvelous achievements of "self-made men." The truth is, no man is well made unless he be made thrice, twice by the Supreme Artificer and once by himself. And those self-made men who are wont to be pointed out as standing evidences that scholastic training is unnecessary are generally the very men whose sense of the immense value of the advantages they lacked impels them to become the most munificent patrons of liberal education; men who, lacking the university, have made the buffeting world their university, and have earned high degrees from their stern Alma Mater,

but who have resolved to smooth the road to eminence before the feet of their sons, and of the aspiring sons of honorable poverty. The proofs of such sagacity on the part of self-made men who deserve the name are before you in the edifices and endowments of this and a multitude of similar institutions.

The limits of time, which I feel it would be an unwarrantable tax on your patience for me to transgress, forbid me to dilate upon the special advantages of the several great classes of studies which long experience has shown to be so eminently adapted to the thorough training and rich furnishing of the mind, and which, I trust, will still be taught amid these academic shades when distant generations of students shall tread these halls. The reckless criticism which has, in certain quarters, assailed these studies calls to my mind the extravagant encomium of Sydney Smith upon the liturgy of the Church of England. He says "It is the richest treasury of rational devotion in the whole world ; and I know but one prayer which it lacks, namely, that the liturgy itself may be held in use and honor in the Church while the world stands." So, with a reasonable modification of the witty wish, I would say of the classics and mathematics as well as of philosophy and of the natural sciences, may they "be held in use and honor" in the temple of learning "while the world stands." Our *Alma Mater* has not, indeed, been blind to the vast advancement of human knowledge during the current generation. She offers the option of French and German during the second year of the course, and for the two remaining years spreads out a range of elective studies scarcely second in extent to that of any college in the country, and absolutely embarrassing to the eager student by reason of its richness and amplitude. Yet the entire course is most wisely adapted to make not specialists, but men.

In passing to my final topic I must call attention once more to the vital question underlying all sound education. "What is man?" Some devotees to the natural sciences whose enormous leaps into the tangled thickets of scientific speculation have taken them so far out of the range of the deepest facts in human nature as to induce them to suppose themselves the leaders of the world's thought, have answered this great question, which has been pondered so earnestly ever since Job and David asked it so solemnly, in a way which might well produce at once derisive laughter and burning tears ; they have gravely assured us, as the all-important finding of their long and deep researches, that man is an improved ape. In the name of human nature itself, whose essential and conscious dignity they thus outrage,

in the name of the Creator and Redeemer of that nature, who "knows what is in man," and who tells us, "There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding," and who so estimates the grandeur of man as to have given His own blood to redeem him—I demand of these modern maligners of our own nature and its author, where are the palaces apes have reared, the poems they have written, the Atlantic cables they have laid, the temples in which they worship, and the hymns of faith in a coming glory which they sing?

Oh, when I glance over the face of the earth, and along the track of the centuries, and trace the solemn march of the successive generations of men; when I witness "man's restless toil and endeavor," his dominion over the brute creation, his ever-increasing mastery of the elements, the grand works of his hands, and the sublimer products of his thoughts; when I see that his course is a perpetual progress of ideas, while all the lower orders of creatures are forever running the same unprogressive round of instinct; that a barbarous country becomes, in a few generations, the arena of the highest civilization and enlightenment; that science after science is born, each becoming the handmaid of all the rest; that the human eye, aided by the instruments the brain has contrived and the hand has formed, can search far down among the infinitesimal atoms, and gaze far outward toward the outermost imaginable regions of the Creator's boundless realm; above all, when I consider the spiritual yearnings of man and the religious history of the world—how man hates God, and defies God, and wants God, and yields to God, and loves God, and communes with God, until he resembles God; I feel that no account of the origin of this wonderful being at all tallies with the indisputable facts of his career save this, "In the image of God created He him."

"What is man?" Three thousand years ago that grand specimen of the race who added to the brain of a statesman and the eye of an astronomer, the genius of a poet, the soul of a saint, and the vision of a seer, opened sublime glimpses into this august theme after this fashion. "What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor; thou hast put all things under his feet."

Science is bound to take account of all facts. Now, among the grandest of facts, which will not down at the bidding of materialistic philosophy, are the intuitive convictions of the soul about God and a

hereafter ; its sense of wrongness and its longings for holiness ; the Bible and Christianity. These are facts, and can no more be bowed out of the way than electricity, or the Roman empire, or the granite foundation of the globe. Any course of education which omits them, however brilliant it may be, is not fit for man as man, but only for man considered as the most erect and meditative of apes. It omits the most important thing. It forgets that

“ Talents angel bright, if wanting worth,
Are only shining instruments in false ambition's hand
To finish faults illustrious, and give infamy renown.”

In the primary school there may be found by such as seek it, some partial excuse for the omission of specific and constant religious culture. It may be said that parents and pastors and Sunday-schools and Churches are directly responsible for the religious education of children, so that their school education may safely be secular. But in the college all conceivable considerations combine to enjoin earnest attention to the highest needs of man. The work of the college is not to cram the mind with a certain number of ideas, as free as possible from all tinge of that which is deepest and highest in all knowledge, its spiritual relations, but to develop an all-sided noble character. It undertakes this work at the formative, and, hence, the critically decisive, period of life. It is, therefore, too much to ask that just at this time we shall ignore or fail to ply to the utmost of their power those religious forces which can alone furnish any security for character.

In America the college is the child of the Church. The seal of Harvard University, the oldest on the Continent, bears the legend, “*Christo et Ecclesiae.*” One of the hymns sung at the inauguration at Harvard is Luther's grand old lyric, beginning, “A strong tower is our God.” Yale began in the gifts of a few Connecticut clergymen, who, bringing each a few books from his library, said, “I give these for the founding of a college.” A late report of the Commissioner of Education shows that of the 368 colleges it enumerates, thirty only are known to be secular in their origin and management, while 261 are known to be under the care of different Churches. In this noble company of Christian institutions for higher education Wesleyan is proud to march. She has never been—may she never be—the propagator of a narrow sectarianism ; she has always been—may she ever be—a defender of “the faith once delivered to the saints.” These sentiments, falling from the lips of one who comes to these new duties from eighteen years' work in the pastoral ministry, may

have, to some ears, a professional sound. I am constrained, therefore, to support them by the mighty words of the greatest constitutional lawyer America has produced—words spoken surely in no professional spirit. Webster says : “Political eminence and professional fame fade away and die with all things earthly ; nothing of character is really permanent but virtue and personal worth. These remain. Whatever of excellence is inwrought into the soul itself belongs to both worlds. Real goodness does not attach itself merely to this life, it points to another world. Political and professional reputation cannot last forever ; but a conscience void of offense before God and man is an inheritance for eternity. Religion is, therefore, a necessary and indispensable element in any human character. There is no living without it. Religion is the tie that connects man with his Creator, and holds him to His throne. If that tie be all sundered, all broken, he floats away a worthless atom in the universe ; its destiny thwarted ; and its whole future nothing but darkness, desolation, and death. A man with no sense of religious duty is he whom the Scripture describes in such terse, but terrific language, as living “without God in the world.” Such a man is out of his proper being ; out of the circle of all his duties ; out of the circle of all his happiness ; and away, far away, from the purposes of his creation.”

The methods by which a high moral and religious culture may be secured in a college I cannot now discuss with any approach to the thoroughness which their immense importance demands. I can do little more than mention the chief of them. The discipline of the college ought to be such as to be fitly reckoned among the agencies for the highest good ; judicious, considerate, generous, fraught with lofty moral aims, never jealous nor over-exacting, moderate, kind, paternal in its demands, and then absolutely inflexible in insisting on the regular discharge of all essential duties, even the least.

The influence of the students upon each other is another element of prime importance in the solution of the problem immediately before us. On this point I adopt the sentiments of one of the foremost educators in this country, who honors us with his presence to-day :

“The public sentiment which pervades the college community is to many an enigma ; to others it is an offense. To those who feel it and are formed by it, it is an earnest and potent reality. In respect to many of the noble elements and manifestations of character, it is high-toned and inexorable ; in respect to many practices which spring from the inclinations of youth and the supposed traditions of the col-

lege, it is occasionally perverse and persistent. While we contend that this atmosphere is in many respects a breezy tonic for good, and can confidently compare it, for moral healthfulness, with that of any other society to which a youth is likely to be introduced, we cannot but desire that in some particulars it might be made more rational and elevated ; that the traditionary antagonism between teachers and pupils need not be pushed to such silly extremes ; that class affinities need not be abased to brutal indignities ; that society rivalries might never be acrid or ungenerous ; above all do we desire that the old-fashioned virtue of truth should be honored in the sturdy English fashion, and that a lie might be stigmatized as essentially mean, to whomsoever it is uttered. We would not desire that social ostracism should in any case be violently applied, but if there is any offense which we would desire that students should never tolerate, it is untruth."

The regular instruction of the college course is another source of potent ethical and religious influence. I do not now refer simply to the text books on Moral Philosophy and the Christian Evidences. Many other text books, if they be true to truth, if they be not violently expurgated at the bidding of the most bigoted skepticism, must teach righteousness and faith. Kepler grandly said, in reference to his great discoveries in the realm of natural law, "I do think the thoughts of God." Every truth is consistent with every other truth. Darwin and Huxley's facts (overlaid with no matter what speculations) are God's thoughts, and must have a place in the truer philosophy of the future. I would say to Christian students, Blink no truth. Be hospitable to all ideas until you have time to make their acquaintance. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." But if you find them fallen angels, cast them out remorselessly.

On the daily chapel service and the public Sabbath worship in this place, and on the social religious meetings, we largely rely for the best Christian influences. Here, under the roof of this Christian temple, which fitly occupies the central place among these edifices, we exalt the Bible ; we read it daily, and expound it every Sabbath ; we continually pray to its Author for his perpetual smile on all our undertakings. My chief hope, however, of the highest moral and religious influence over students lies in the personal characters of their instructors. If this institution shall stand a thousand years, the time will never come when the name of Fisk shall cease to be a

talisman. Why? Because of the thorough, genial, saintly goodness of the man.

I regret to speak in a way so fragmentary on points of such vital importance; but I must hasten to close. I undertake the heavy responsibilities of the office into which I have this day been publicly inducted, not, I confess, without very serious reflection and some trepidation. He would, indeed, be a very bold man who could lightly assume a position so important, and which has been filled by men so illustrious. And yet I undertake these responsibilities, not, I also admit, without high hopes and strong courage; for I remember whose co-laborer I am in this great work. I encourage myself, first of all, by considering who the men are at whose side I take my stand. I will not mar this occasion by words of empty compliment; but the simplest justice to my associates permits me to refer to them as men of eminent attainments, not only in their respective departments, but also in general culture. Several of them have adorned their present positions long enough to be widely known and highly honored in the republic of learning. I account it also no slight advantage that I have the benefit of the ample experience of my honored predecessor, whose signal ability and indefatigable labors, extending through almost half the history of this college, have, in addition to all their achievements, reared for themselves these visible monuments; and also of the revered instructor of my youth, who has been the teacher of almost every class ever graduated here.

I remember also of what stuff college students are made, and this inspires me. In all my pastoral ministry, the youth of my congregations have had a large share of my thoughts and care and love. I could not have sundered the delightful pastoral relations of eighteen years if I had not hoped to find them renewed in the abundant opportunities of sympathy, affection and counsel, which my association with students will afford. Here are nearly two hundred, (I trust there will soon be more than two hundred,) young persons at the very crisis of life-determining decision, looking to us, in part to me, for aid in preparing for noble lives and a glorious destiny. That would, indeed, be a dull soul which could catch no thrill of inspiration from looking into their faces. My recollection of my own student life amid these classic shades is still fresh enough, and my scanty knowledge of the present undergraduates of this institution is ample enough, to give me a strong conviction that nearly all who gather here are so intent on helping themselves that it cannot fail to be a delight to any generous mind to try to help them.

Nor do I forget the noble men on whose fostering care the welfare of this university so directly depends. It is theirs to select its faculty, to direct its policy, and to set in motion plans which shall make its financial basis as ample as its needs, and as lasting as the ages. Great is their responsibility; correspondingly lofty will be the honor of its successful discharge. I would hardly adopt, to the very full, the words of another, spoken on an occasion like this; yet I cite them as being very suggestive: "The final force under God is money. With money, competent professors can be secured, suitable buildings can be erected, and all helpful and needful apparatus procured. This money power is vested in the Board of Trustees. They must, then, be men who know how to create and how to use money. They must call it out of the air, or dig it out of the earth, or pull it out of their pockets. It must come from somewhere, and they have no more right to hold the post of trustees and not furnish funds to the extent of their ability, than the professors have to hold their places and not do the teaching. The first question is money. Brothers, this we must create. There is money enough in the Church, We are to command it."

There arises also before my vision that noble band, almost a thousand strong, of the surviving alumni of this university—a band which, with the pardonable pride of all good mothers of worthy sons, *Alma Mater* hesitates not to compare with an equal number of graduates of like age taken indiscriminately from the ranks of any other university in the land. It includes large numbers of men of high rank in all the learned professions, and in almost every honorable occupation, bishops, pastors, judges, legislators, editors, college presidents by the dozen, and professors almost by the hundred; I would I might add millionaires in fit proportion, for then I would be sure that the urgent needs of the college would be promptly and munificently met.

Nothing could have induced me to accept this office, which I esteem at once the highest honor and gravest responsibility of my life, save the earnest assurance, coming from every quarter, of co-operation from the friends of this university, and, above all, the confident expectation of the blessing which I humbly crave from Him without whose aid nothing is strong or wise or good.

